

LOS ANGELES COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION

2615 S. GRAND AVE., SUITE 100
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90007



United We Stand



Joseph N. Smith
Director

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Present:

Commissioners

Stephanie Stone, Chair
Bob Archuleta
Fred Flores
Ramon Rodriguez
Dave Culmer
Rudy Garcia
Carvel Gay
Steve Rosmarin

Absent:

Commissioners

Mark MacCarley, Vice Chair

County Department

Military and Veterans Affairs

Colonel Joseph Smith, Director
Tatiana Rosas, Executive Secretary

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Approval of Minutes

Chair Stephanie Stone called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Chair Stone asked Jim Fitzgibbon an Army Vietnam veteran to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Rodriguez motioned to approve the minutes of March 9th and it was seconded by Commissioner Garcia and they were approved unanimously.

Commissioner Gay introduced Mr. David Krivorkian, Chamber of Commerce; City of Pasadena is very supportive of veterans. Commissioner Rosmarin introduced Jim Fitzgibbon; a resident of the West Los Angeles Home is an Army Vietnam veteran.

Roll Call

As noted above.

Chairman's Report

Chair Stone expressed her thanks to everyone and stated she was honored to have served this past year. She had two goals for the Commission and worked hard to make positive strides towards them. She stated that there has been greater recognition and outreach of the Commission, and a campaign to develop great public knowledge of the issue of MST. She's have engaged 27 agencies/individuals on the issue of MST and am working with the Department of Labor to develop a Women's Stand down with a focus on MST.

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Throughout the year she's attended over 40 community meetings as Chair and has worked with staff and Commissioners to develop a blueprint for online communication for the Department and Commission. She's met with Commissioner Culmer, West Los Angeles VA, Long Beach and Sepulveda and with New Directions, Salvation Army and discussed with Supervisor Knabe on the Department website. The Supervisor said the funding is being considered into the Department budget.

Lastly she'd like to elect someone who'll carry out the goals ahead and thanked everyone for their support.

Comments from Audience (three minutes each)

Duke Russell, founder of Abe Lincoln Remembrance, distributed a letter he wrote to the Los Angeles Times, "War Veterans Share Pain," on a failed field on the rooftop at Los Angeles City College. He requested that the Commission assist in requesting the Governor Brown save the field. He stated that most colleges have 2 fields.

Los Angeles National Cemetery – Lynette Parker

Ms. Lynette Parker, Director, Los Angeles National Cemetery, provided the following report:

- There is construction around the cemetery and realignment of the headstones is in Phase 5.
- Roads and curbs will be under construction after Memorial Day.
- The expansion project and the Notice to Proceed should pass in November 2011 and construction will be final and the first burial will be scheduled in November 2012.
- Invited everyone to the 122nd Annual Memorial Day Program on May 30, 2011 at 10:30am.

Chair Stone thanked Ms. Parker for her report and for coming to the Commission meeting and hope that she would continue to attend and provide the Commission with reports on the various changes the cemetery is undergoing.

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System – Ralph Tillman

Mr. Eric Gutierrez attended for Ralph Tillman and distributed the Unique Patient Trend Report for the 1st Year and 5 Year comparison with current FY and FY 2011 & FY 2010 Outpatient SHEP Scores. He provided the following report on:

- Outreach numbers up by only 1.15%; having trouble getting numbers to increase.
- Solar Panel Program broke ground.

Chair Stone thanked him for his report and requested that he provide an updated Red, White and Blue report.

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Report – Colonel Joseph Smith

Colonel Joseph Smith, Director, Military and Veterans Affairs provided the following Department Report:

- Decrease in Reserve and National Guard Personnel continues...last report had 90,068 troops activated by the Armed Services.
- All branches of the Armed Services met their Active Duty and Reserve Forces Recruiting targets. Quality of recruits comparable to young men and women accepted to local community/state colleges.
- National program to recognize and assist military wives and children "joining forces" was announced by Mrs. Obama and Mrs. Biden. Retired General Stanley McChrystal will direct the program.
- Yesterday there was a collaborative Leadership Summit to End Homelessness (LA Business Leaders Taskforce) "Home for Good" – Partners: United Way of LA and LA Are Chamber of Commerce – will send out its framing document.

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- Friday evening and Saturday – The Soldiers Project Women and War: Hidden Strengths, Hidden Wounds.
- New Army C/S: General Martin Dempsey (Vice Gen. Casey) California National Guard Major General David Baldwin (Vice BGen. McKnight).
- The 9th Annual Commissioners' Leadership Conference "Time for Solutions" will be held on May 12, 2011 at The Music Center Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.
- The Department received a 99.9875% score on the accuracy of claims processed with one minor error.

Chair Stone thanked the Colonel for the Department Report.

Veterans Home Support Committee – Steve Rosmarin

Commissioner Steve Rosmarin stated that he is in the process of putting together a program with Louis Koff, Terrence Lyons, Annenberg Foundation, and Chair Stone for the Veterans Home Support Committee. Commissioner Rosmarin reiterated the fact that both Lancaster and Ventura have non-profit organizations, 501 (c) 3 committees which help the hospitals provide unfunded assistance to their resident patients. He encouraged everyone to go and tour the Home and be pleasantly pleased.

Grants available in each of the five Supervisorial Districts

Rolled over to next month's meeting.

Election of Commission Officers

Chair Stone asked for nominations or if someone is unable to serve, like Commissioner MacCarley, to be withdrawn from the Ballot. Commissioner Flores asked to be withdrawn from the Ballot.

The total number of votes received for Chair:

Bob Archuleta -3	Rudy Garcia -1	Carvel Gay -1
Stephanie Stone -1	Steve Rosmarin -1	Ramon Rodriguez -1

The total number of votes received for Vice-Chair:

Carvel Gay -5	David Culmer -1	Steve Rosmarin -1	Stephanie Stone -1
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The Commission voted in favor of Bob Archuleta for Chair and Carvel Gay for Vice Chair and it was approved unanimously.

New Business

Commissioner Rosmarin; requested that the Sports Field at Los Angeles City College (LACC) continue to be a topic of discussion.

Commissioner Flores; requested that the new VA Regional Director Dennis Kuewa be invited to the June meeting

Item's for Next Month's Agenda

Grants in the five Districts from each Commissioner

Veterans Home Support Committee – Steve Rosmarin

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Sports Field at LACC – Steve Rosmarin

54th District Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal – Ramon Rodriguez

Board of Supervisor Don Knabe- Stephanie Stone

Commissioner Gay will invite two Veterans for May's meeting to offer the Invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Good of the Order

Commissioner Garcia; stated he had nothing for the good of the order.

Commissioner Archuleta; extended his congratulations to madam Chair; she is a true leader. He stated this would be his 2nd time as a Chair and is looking forward to a good productive year for the Commission. "Let's give back."

Commissioner Gay; stated he concurred with all that was said today is true about madam Chair, "you're an exception to the title; you've done good things."

Commissioner Rodriguez; stated, "Good Job!" He is working with AM VETS and was at the Capitol in Sacramento and met with Acting Secretary Rocky Chavez, Pete Conaty, Lobbyist for veterans and both send their regards to Colonel Smith. He passed a picture of the 5th thrift shop in the AM VETS building and encourages everyone to visit the Long Beach one when opened.

Commissioner Flores: stated he is proud to be serving in the Commission and apologizes for his previous absences. Thanked Chair Stone for her leadership.

Commissioner Culmer; stated Chair Stone did an outstanding job.

Commissioner Rosmarin; stated it has been a pleasure serving with Chair Stone. He met with the Commander of the Jewish War Veterans this past week and went to visit the Ronald Reagan Library and amazing place.

Chair Stephanie Stone thanked everyone for their support throughout the year. She encourages the social media and can be followed on Twitter and Facebook on various veteran issues. She stated, "Welcome the new officers to the post and look forward to the coming year!"

Motion to adjourn meeting by Commissioner Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Archuleta. Chair Stone adjourned meeting at 3:07 p.m.

Tatiana Rosas
Executive Secretary
April 13, 2011

Note: The next Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 1:30 p.m., at the VA Long Beach VA Long Beach Healthcare System at 5901 E. Seventh Street, Long Beach, California 90822.